

MEAP/MME

Coordinator Update

Spring 2006 High School Assessment Materials Return

If your district is in the process of returning spring 2006 high school MEAP material, please take a moment now to make sure you have everything you need before the April 21st pickup deadline. If you need additional forms, return labels, etc., please place an order immediately via the OEAA secure website (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) by clicking on the *Additional Orders and Shipment Tracking* link.

If you have any questions about the return of assessment materials or need assistance in getting additional return materials, please contact Pearson Educational Measurement at 800-204-4109.

Michigan Merit Examination (MME) Webpage

If you haven't checked it out lately, take a look at the MME webpage (www.michigan.gov/mme). OEAA staff members have been working with ACT to add more information that will help address some of your questions on planning, scheduling and administering the MME, links directly to information from ACT, and correspondence from the Michigan Department of Education regarding MME.

Also, be sure to reserve April 27 (3:00 p.m.) on your calendar for the live videoconference, *MME: Plans for Implementation in 2007* originating from Wayne RESA. An updated announcement is posted on the webpage with a list of ISDs who will be host sites.

MEAP Social Studies Test Design for Fall 2006, Grades 6, 9, and 11

The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) is currently in the process of redesigning some aspects of the MEAP social studies assessments at Grades 6, 9, and 11. These changes include a move away from the current format of a prompt followed by five related items. As a result, the fall 2006 assessments will look somewhat different from the format that MEAP has used in the past. Items will continue to be grouped by strand (i.e., history, geography, etc.) or by a theme (such as the Civil War). However, some items will not be associated with prompts, and most prompts will not have five items associated with them. Instead, a prompt may have one or more items associated with it.

MEAP has been working this year with the Social Studies Steering Committee (an advisory committee made up of social studies educators from across the state) to consider issues for improving the MEAP social studies assessments. Changes are being considered to improve the MEAP social studies assessments by permitting a broader coverage of the Michigan Curriculum Framework for Social Studies, without compromising our goal of building an informed citizenry.

Please let your colleagues know as soon as possible that the MEAP social studies assessments will look different beginning with the fall 2006 assessment. The content standards and benchmarks that are measured by the assessments remain the same, so the changes do not affect curriculum or instruction. These changes only affect the format of the assessments. If teachers have told their students that the social studies assessments will consist of prompts followed by five related items, they need to let their students know that the new assessments will no longer follow this format.

If you have any questions about the new social studies test design, please contact one of the following individuals:

- Ruth Athan, MEAP Social Studies Consultant, (517) 335-0477, AthanR@michigan.gov
- Bill Brown, Coordinator, Test Development, (517) 335-0568, BrownBill@michigan.gov

Administration of the Fall 2006 Grade 9 Social Studies Assessment

The administration of the Fall 2006 Grade 9 Social Studies Assessment will take place during the Grades 3-9 assessment window of October 9 – 27, 2006.

Schools will not have the option of administering this assessment during the high school retest window of October 23 – November 3, 2006. Only 12th grade students may take the MEAP high school assessment this fall. Students in the 11th grade must take the new Michigan Merit Examination in spring 2007.

Grade 6 English Language Arts (ELA) Released Item Document

Based on information gathered during the Fall 2005 scoring process for Grade 6 ELA, it has been determined that item 33 has two correct answers (B or D). Both answers were scored as correct responses in the scoring for final reports.

Planning for OEAA Conferences Underway

Mark your calendars for the 2006 Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) conferences. The two-day conferences will be held in late November and early December following the fall assessments for Grades 3-9 and high school. Dates and sites are listed below for your information.

- **Marquette** – November 28 & 29 at Northern Michigan University
- **Grayling** – November 30 & December 1 at the Holiday Inn
- **Grand Rapids** – December 4 & 5 at the Crowne Plaza on 28th Street
- **Novi** – December 7 & 8 at the Sheraton Detroit Novi
- **Lansing** – December 11 & 12 at the Lansing Center
- **Sterling Heights** - December 13 & 14 at the Sterling Inn

Online registration should be available through the Michigan Institute for Educational Management (MIEM) in late September and will be announced in an issue of the MEAP/MME Update. For more information, contact Tami Feldpausch (517-241-4136, or FeldpauschT@michigan.gov).

Report Cards Appeals to Start for Elementary and Middle Schools

Staff from OEAA and the Department of Information Technology (DIT) have been working to prepare the draft School Report Cards to begin the appeal process for elementary and middle schools. Michigan has submitted several amendments to the federal Accountability Workbook, which are currently awaiting approval from the U.S. Department of Education. Monday, April 24, 2006, is the date targeted to begin the appeals for elementary and middle schools. The plan is to review and resolve all appeals as quickly as possible so that the Report Cards for elementary and middle schools can be released to the public before the end of the school year. A separate appeal window for high schools will begin in June, and Report Cards for high schools will be released in August, before the beginning of the 2006-07 school year.

FALL 2006 MEAP TEST CENTERS

Registration information for Fall 2006 MEAP Test Centers (for nonpublic school 7th grade, 8th grade, and 12th grade students whose own school does not offer the MEAP assessments) will be posted on our website by May 26. Go to www.michigan.gov/meap, and then look for "MEAP Test Centers" near the bottom of the page. If you have questions about MEAP Test Centers, call Bob Nelson at 517-241-4987. If you have questions about any aspect of the Michigan Merit Award, call the Michigan Department of Treasury toll-free 888-447-2687.